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## **CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION**

**November 1996**

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Channels is the newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington. This electronic edition is an edited text-only version of our hard-copy monthly publication.

### **COMMODORE'S LOG**

(Declan Conroy) SCOW's Hail & Farewell is coming up November 16. For those of you who have not been to one of these, it's the glitziest SCOW event of the year, held in the Officers' Club at Bolling Air Force Base. The Hail is to the incoming board of directors, the Farewell to the outgoing. It's an opportunity to see what our sailors look like when they put on the ritz, although that's not compulsory. The night includes dining, dancing and a small amount of ceremony in an elegant setting. See details below.

Our upcoming November 11 membership meeting includes the election of the 1997 board. There will be no guest speaker. Instead, there will be an opportunity for members to make suggestions on how to improve the club and its activities. This is an important session in which the incoming directors get ideas for where they should focus their energies next year. Input from members is really important, so come on down and get involved. SCOW needs you!

We're getting to that time of the year when some hardy souls like to go cold-weather sailing. If that includes you, remember to bring your warmest clothing and several extra layers just in case cold turns to deep chill on the water. I was out some weeks ago on a 30-mile race out of Solomon's Island, with temperatures forecast in the lower 60s and winds 20-25 knots. I had four layers plus foul weather gear, but still got cold when the expected 25 knots turned into an unsteady 25 - 40 gusting to over 50 knots. I had left my really warm gear at home, a mistake I had plenty of time to regret. Fortunately skipper Don Deese donated a down jacket and I eventually thawed out (plus we won, which had an additional warming effect).

Because of weather-related postponements and overlapping commitments on the day (October 5), the most recent SCOW Potomac River overnight cruise was a modest affair, with only myself, Tom Flesher and Mary Wallmeyer on Rebecca. But the outing included one beautiful sunset, a lovely dinner in good company, a spectacular morning with a mist rising on the water, and the calls of migratory birds from the nearby nature reserve.

Actually it wasn't perfect; the morning tranquillity was shattered by a water skier and we had to motor-sail most of the way to and from Gunston Cove to Washington Sailing Marina. But several overnights this year have shown that Rebecca is very comfortable for three people and would be fine for one couple (in the V berth) and two singles. Although there is theoretically

bunk space for two others, there is the question of where to stow gear if all the bunk space is taken. Even with three, gear has to go out into the cockpit to give any comfort below.

A final Potomac River overnight is tentatively scheduled for November 9--10, subject to demand. I will be out of town for this, so we will need a cruise-master as well as some hardy crew. Rebecca has a stove for making the essential hot drinks. But anyone thinking of going will need to plan for staying warm.

## **SCOW'S ALSO RAN ALSO RAN**

(Anne LaLena) The day of the big race dawned gray and windy. Surely a storm was afoot. Nevertheless, 11 hardy skippers and crew showed up Sept. 28th for SCOW's Also-Ran Regatta in boats ranging from a 25-foot McGregor to a frisky Laser. Ben and Jean Ackerman showed up with two full Flying Scots full of determined Special Olympians. Tom Beachem jetted in from Atlanta set on winning in Psycho with his trusty crew against challenger Marcia Green's Time Sweep and other rivals. Mike Geissinger sailed his San Juan 21-foot racer two days and two nights to arrive in time for the race.

But the best laid plans of mice, men, and sailors go astray. Winds that grew to 20 knots to 25 knots with roiling waters topped by thick white caps and front warnings conspired to make SCOW's race committee postpone the race one week, deeming caution the better part of valor.

Neptune did not repeat his performance. Sunny skies Oct. 5th and a strong but capricious breeze fueled a tight race. Strategy and analysis as well as luck and skill were demanded and demonstrated by the committed racers.

### **AND THE WINNERS WERE:**

#### **Flying Scot Division:**

First Place: Boat: Suzie Q, Skipper: Stuart Ullman, Crew: Gage Ullman, Monica Maynard.

Second Place: Boat: Dansweida, Skipper: Joe DePoorter, Crew: Susan Kaufman, Tom Flesher.

Third Place: Boat: Ms Ellie, Skipper: Dan McClafferty, Crew: Bill Barnhards, Mike Jenner.

#### **Big Boat Division:**

First Place: Boat: Second Wind (25 ft McGregor), Nelson Pacheco, Crew Dudley Leath (in fact the two divisions raced together, but a separate award solved a handicapping problem).

SCOW extends its deep appreciation to the Potomac River Sailing Association for the use of its race materials and rescue boat. In particular, PRSA Commodore Daphne Byron and valued-member Chris Bolton contributed time, effort and sage advice.

SCOW also thanks Ben Ackerman, Barbara and Stuart Ullman and Don Deese for their very generous donations of time, expertise and effort that helped out in too many pinches.

Special thanks go to race committee chairman Declan Conroy, race committee member George Umberger, Scott Janes, Marcia Greene, Cathy Cox and even a non-SCOW member who went out of his way to provide needed information for the race.

### **CAN YOU CREW TO THE BAHAMAS THIS WINTER?**

(Ron Heilig) We're heading to the Bahamas for the winter, and we're looking for some company. Our course will cover Tampa to Miami via the Ochachobee Water Way, then over to Nassau. Once in the Bahamas, we'll go down the Exuma Chain to Georgetown Great Exuma. Our current plan is to leave Tampa in the first week of January, 1997, and return to Florida in April or May, weather permitting. Interested? Contact Ron Heilig of Debby Jonas. Home 703-916-9386. Debby's work 703-287-8357.

### **1996 HAIL AND FAREWELL**

(Jerry Seinwill) Believe it or don't: SCOW Sailors clean up real good! Those scruffy sailors on Flying Scots with ragged-ass cutoffs and politically incorrect tees are the same highly polished and spiffily attired yachtspersons doing the Minuet and Macarena in the elegant Potomac Room of the Bolling AFB Officers' Club.

Join them, be there, do that, at the 1996 Hail and Farewell. Saturday, November 16. Entree choice of Roast Beef au jus or Flounder Stuffed with Crab. Cash Bar opens at six, dinner chimes sound at seven, dancing thereafter, whatever. Cost \$30.

Maximum guest number: 100. Reserve NOW. Minimum number: 85--or SCOW goes in the red, belly-up, deep six, Davy Jones, sell the Scots, mortgage the Commodore.

Send your reservation form, with check payable to SCOW, to Susan Berman, 5403 41st Street NW, Washington, DC 20015. For info call Susan Berman: 202-244-5537.

### **POTOMAC EQUINOX = HOLIDAY RAFT-UP**

(Jerry Seinwill) December 8th marks the end of the 1996 SCOW Social Season and the start of the 1996 SCOW Holiday Season. Drink out the old and eat in the new at SCOW's 1996 HOLIDAY RAFT-UP, again this year in the Seasonally-Splendid Clubhouse of the Colonies of McLean.

Y'all come, y'all bring food. SCOW roasts a flock of turkeys and provides the munchies and moonshine (beers, wines, sodas and liquid leftovers from parties past). Find your festive holiday duds and fix your favorite holiday dish. Cost is \$0.00, price of admission is your best holiday dish.

Mark the date: Sunday evening, December 8, 5-9 pm at The Colonies (very near Tyson's Corner). Watch the December Channels for flyer with more details and driving instructions.

Sign up at the November 11 meeting. Also volunteer to help set-up/clean-up. Call Jerry or Sally Seinwill (202-546-4893), or call 202-628-SAIL (#2), or Email GDSeinwill@aol.com.

### **CLOCKSTOPPER HAS A NEW HOME**

(Pat Derry) CLOCKSTOPPER is now gladdening the heart of a new owner. And I'm looking for an American-built boat. Details to come.

### **SLIPS TO SHORE**

(Melissa Ennis) Send your Giant and Safeway receipts to me, if you're not collecting for your favorite school kid. I'll pass them on to Gunston Middle School in Arlington, where I'm student teaching this semester. Gunston's using sailing skills and stories as part of the science, English, and social studies curriculum. (Not my idea. I'm thrilled to see how well it's working.) They can use the help. The program runs through March. Just stuff your receipts in an envelope and send them to me at 4627 South 36th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22206.

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